



## Notre Dame Law Review

---

Volume 59 | Issue 1

Article 1

---

12-1-1983

# Professor Edward F. Barrett

Notre Dame Law Review Editors

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarship.law.nd.edu/ndlr>



Part of the [Law Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Notre Dame Law Review Editors, *Professor Edward F. Barrett*, 59 Notre Dame L. Rev. xiii (1983).

Available at: <http://scholarship.law.nd.edu/ndlr/vol59/iss1/1>

This Commentary is brought to you for free and open access by NDLScholarship. It has been accepted for inclusion in Notre Dame Law Review by an authorized administrator of NDLScholarship. For more information, please contact [lawdr@nd.edu](mailto:lawdr@nd.edu).

## Professor Edward F. Barrett

Professor Emeritus Edward F. Barrett died on October 30, 1982, ending a distinguished life of scholarship and service to the legal community. Professor Barrett began his career as an attorney in western New York. In addition to practicing law, he taught history and government at Canisius College, his alma mater. From 1946 to 1948 he taught law at Fordham University, and from 1948 until his retirement in 1978 he was a professor at the Notre Dame Law School.

Professor Barrett's students, some of whom are now professors themselves at Notre Dame, remember him as a fine socratic teacher of the old style. In class he required them to stand to recite, outside of the classroom he was always available and spent hours with students. He was a learned man, a lover of history. He taught a wide range of courses. His greatest contribution to Notre Dame and to the legal community, however, was his pioneering class on trial advocacy, which he developed soon after coming to Notre Dame and taught until he retired.

When Professor Barrett began to teach trial advocacy through simulated trials, the concept was so new that he had to develop techniques and materials himself. He had a fertile mind for adapting famous cases to pedagogical use and for building fictional cases around local landmarks and events. His success in creating life-like trial simulations is a tribute to his imagination and dedication. He gave each student only a client name and telephone number, and the student developed the case by following the trial Professor Barrett had carefully prepared. He involved faculty and their families as witnesses and persuaded local judges to hear the cases. The year before he died, he himself returned to sit as a judge in a mock trial involving a new generation of students.

Professor Barrett served as a member of the American Bar Association's Section of Judicial Administration Task Force on Trial Advocacy. The Task Force met in 1968 and 1969, and its efforts brought into being the National Institute for Trial Advocacy. Thus not only hundreds of Notre Dame law graduates, but all those who have been touched by the National Institute for Trial Advocacy, owe a debt of gratitude to Professor Barrett.

*Requiescat in Pace*

